

Confidential until released for publication as under:-
Morning Papers .. 31st July, 1943.
Evening Papers .. 31st July, 1943.

RETAIL PRICES - JUNE QUARTER, 1943.

All Items - "C" Series.

Index Numbers for June quarter 1943 (with base 1000 in 1923-27 in the six State Capitals) were Brisbane 1083; Toowoomba 1089; Rockhampton 1086; Townsville 1124; Bundaberg 1068; and Warwick 1064.

The above figures show the following percentage increases as compared with the dates shown.

City			June Quarter, 1943 - Percentage Increase Compared With		
			Year Ended June, 1939	June Quarter, 1942	March Quarter, 1943
Brisbane	..	..	25.49	6.18	1.88
Toowoomba	..	..	27.97	6.14	1.97
Rockhampton	..	..	26.13	6.16	2.55
Townsville	..	..	23.25	5.14	1.90
Bundaberg	..	..	26.99	6.06	2.01
Warwick	..	..	29.44	6.40	2.31

Food and groceries, clothing and footwear, and the miscellaneous group of items comprising household drapery and hardware, fuel, light, fares, etc. have shown the following percentage increases during the last quarter and since 1933-39.

City	Food and Groceries		Clothing and Footwear		Miscellaneous Items	
	Percentage	Percentage	Percentage	Percentage	Percentage	Percentage
	Increase on	Increase on	Increase on	Increase on	Increase on	Increase on
	Year Ended	March Qr.	Year Ended	March Qr.	Year Ended	March Qr.
	June, 1939	1943	June, 1939	1943	June, 1939	1943
Brisbane ..	16.59	1.53	72.86	3.99	18.40	0.99
Toowoomba ..	21.50	2.28	74.07	3.89	19.02	0.78
Rockhampton	13.74	2.93	75.62	4.73	20.37	0.69
Townsville ..	10.58	0.76	76.19	4.45	18.76	2.07
Bundaberg ..	16.94	1.83	72.82	3.94	17.15	0.78
Warwick ..	16.19	3.15	68.94	3.31	21.36	1.16

Food and Rent (4 and 5 Roomed Houses) - "B" Series.

Index Numbers for June quarter 1943 (with base 1000 in 1923-27 for the six State Capitals) were Brisbane 942; Toowoomba 936; Rockhampton 918; Townsville 979; Bundaberg 902; and Warwick 882.

From March quarter 1943 to June quarter 1943 this index rose by the following percentages - Brisbane 0.86; Toowoomba 1.41; Rockhampton 1.89; Townsville 0.51; Bundaberg 1.46; and Warwick 2.08:

Rents in Bundaberg showed an increase of 0.30% but remained stationary in the five other towns. The Food and Grocery index rose in all towns, principally due to a rise in potatoes and onions.

The largest increase was shown in Warwick (3.15%) where eggs and beef rose in addition to potatoes and onions.

Compared with June quarter 1942 the combined Food and Rent Index showed the following percentage increases - Brisbane 2.61; Toowoomba 2.63; Rockhampton 2.00; Townsville 0.20; Bundaberg 2.73; and Warwick 3.16.

The Food and Groceries Index also showed rises in each town ranging from 0.28% in Townsville to 4.18% in Brisbane.

The Rent Index remained stationary in Brisbane and Townsville but showed the following percentage increases in the other towns - Toowoomba 0.12; Rockhampton 0.15; Bundaberg 2.30; and Warwick 5.04.

Compared with the Index for 1938-39 the "B" Series Index showed the following percentage increases - Brisbane 10.56; Toowoomba 14.01; Rockhampton 9.68; Townsville 6.88; Bundaberg 12.89; and Warwick 14.84.

Rents rose in all towns, the percentage increases being Brisbane 1.41; Toowoomba 2.63; Rockhampton 2.13; Townsville 0.58; Bundaberg 4.06; and Warwick 12.31;

Increases were recorded in all towns for Food and Groceries compared with 1938-39; the percentage changes are shown in the second table on the previous page.

Comparison of Costs in the Queensland Cities.

The following table shows the amounts necessary in June quarter, 1943 to purchase what would have cost £1 in Brisbane.

City			All Items	Food and Groceries	Rent (4 and 5 Rooms)	Clothing and Footwear
			£ s. d.	£ d. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Brisbane	..	..	1. 0. 0	1. 0. 0	1. 0. 0	1. 0. 0
Toowoomba	..	..	1. 0. 1	19.10	19.11	1. 0. 2
Rockhampton	..	..	1. 0. 1	1. 0. 5	17.10	1. 0. 9
Townsville	..	..	1. 0. 9	1. 1. 2	1. 0. 1	1. 0. 8
Bundaberg	..	..	19. 9	1. 1. 2	15. 6	1. 0. 3
Warwick	..	..	19. 8	19. 8	16.11	1. 0. 0

Comparison of Commonwealth and States Basic Wages.

In the following statement comparisons are made between the prevailing basic wages in the various Capital Cities and States. The margins between the Brisbane (or Queensland) figure and the other figures in these columns show the advantage to the Queensland State Basic Wage earner.

State	METROPOLITAN				STATE AVERAGES c.			
	Price Index Nos. "C" Series	Amount Required to give same standard of living as current State Basic Wage in Brisbane	Actual Basic Wage	Margin in Favour of Brisbane	Price Index Nos. "C" Series	Amount Required to give same standard of living as current State Basic Wage in Queensland	State Basic Wage	Margin in Favour of Q'land.
Queensland	1083	£ s. d. 4.17. 0	£ s. d. 4.17. 0a	s. d. -	1086	£ s. d. 4.17. 8	£ s. d. 4.17. 8	s. d. -
N. S. W.	1165	5. 4. 4	5. 0. 0a	4. 4	1162	5. 4. 6	5. 0. 0	4. 6
Victoria	1153	5. 3. 3	4.19. 0b	4. 3	1149	5. 3. 4	4.18.10	4. 6
South Aust.	1111	4.19. 6	4.14. 0a	5. 6	1106	4.19. 6	4.14. 0	5. 6
West Aust.	1115	4.19.10	4.18. 9a	1. 1	1123	5. 1. 0	4.19. 2	1.10
Tasmania	1118	5. 0. 2	4.15. 0b	5. 2	1103	4.19. 2	4.13. 0	6. 2

a. Current State Basic Wage.

b. Commonwealth Basic Wage, applicable from first pay of period of August, 1943. This rate is generally followed in State Awards in these States.

c. Average for 5 principal cities in each State, weighted by population.

RETAIL PRICES INDEX.

Table No. 1.

THE "ALL ITEMS" INDEX - "C" SERIES.
(Base = 1000 in 1923-27 in Six State Capitals).

City	Year Ending Decr. 1928	Year Ending June 1939	Year Ending June 1943	QUARTERS ENDING				
				June 1942	Sept. 1942	Decr. 1942	March 1943	June 1943
Brisbane ..	917	863	1061	1020	1044	1055	1063	1083
Toowoomba ..	906	851	1064	1026	1043	1056	1068	1089
Rockhampton ..	903	861	1058	1023	1035	1052	1059	1086
Townsville ..	1023	912	1102	1069	1081	1098	1103	1124
Bundaberg ..	(b)	841	1044	1007	1021	1038	1047	1068
Weighted Average -								
Five Cities (a) ..	915	864	1064	1023	1045	1057	1066	1086
Warwick ..	914	822	1038	1000	1017	1029	1040	1064

(a) Prior to 1937 the five towns in the weighted averages included Charters Towers and Warwick which have now been replaced by Townsville and Bundaberg.

(b) Prices for Bundaberg were not collected prior to September quarter 1936.

Table No. 2.

FOOD, GROCERIES AND RENT (4 AND 5 ROOMED HOUSES) - "B" SERIES.

(Base = 1000 in 1923-27 in Six State Capitals).

City	Year Ending Decr. 1928	Year Ending June 1939	Year Ending June 1943	QUARTERS ENDING				
				June 1942	Sept. 1942	Decr. 1942	March 1943	June 1943
Brisbane ..	901	852	935	918	935	930	934	942
Toowoomba ..	833	821	922	912	919	910	923	936
Rockhampton ..	858	837	904	900	898	900	901	918
Townsville ..	1047	916	978	977	979	978	974	979
Bundaberg ..	(b)	799	888	878	879	880	889	902
Weighted Average -								
Five Cities (a) ..	892	851	933	919	932	928	932	941
Warwick ..	841	768	867	855	863	857	864	882

(a) Prior to 1937 the five towns in the weighted averages included Charters Towers and Warwick which have now been replaced by Townsville and Bundaberg.

(b) Prices for Bundaberg were not collected prior to September quarter 1936.

Table No. 3.

AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES - FOOD AND GROCERIES.

Brisbane.

Commodity & Unit of Quantity	Year Ending June 1939	MONTH OF		Commodity & Unit of Quantity	Year Ending June 1939	MONTH OF	
		March 1943	June 1943			March 1943	June 1943
	d.	d.	d.		d.	d.	d.
Bread .. 2 lb.	5.33	5.50	5.50	Milk .. 1 qt.	6.00	6.95	7.00
Flour .. 2 lb.	3.73	4.05	4.05	Bacon (Rashers) 1 lb.	14.81	18.55	18.55
Tea .. 1 lb.	26.99	40.59	40.73	Beef - Sirloin			
Sugar .. 1 lb.	3.98	3.98	3.98	Roast .. 1 lb.	8.73	12.00	12.00
Jam (Plum) .. 1½ lb.	8.02	10.09	10.28	Beef - Steak			
Raisins .. 1 lb.	10.57	11.95	12.09	Rump .. 1 lb.	11.34	16.80	16.90
Potatoes .. 7 lb.	14.88	18.18	18.59	Beef - Rolled			
Onions .. 1 lb.	2.93	2.91	2.98	Brisket .. 1 lb.	5.48	7.75	7.60
Soap .. 1 lb.	6.20	7.03	7.00	Mutton - leg 1 lb.	7.75	7.95	8.00
Butter .. 1 lb.	19.00	19.91	19.91	Mutton - chops			
Cheese .. 1 lb.	13.28	14.91	14.95	Loin .. 1 lb.	7.78	8.10	8.15
Eggs .. 1 doz.	19.69	26.80	26.82	Pork - Leg .. 1 lb.	11.40	15.90	15.95